

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 1-26 were pending. Claims 1-12 and 23-26 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 13-22 have been allowed. No claims have been amended. Claims 27-31 have been added without introducing any new matter. Claims 13-22 and 27-31 remain pending.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 13-22 have been allowed. Thus, the following remarks are directed solely to the remaining claims 1-12 and 23-31.

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Darcie et al. (US 5,559,624A). Claims 1-3 and 5-8 have been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Note that Applicant does not necessarily agree with the reasoning for the rejection set forth in the Office Action, and explicitly reserves the right to pursue claims 1-3 and 5-8 or claims of similar scope in a continuation application.

Claims 23 and 25 are rejected under 345 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bradford et al. (US 7,046,928B1). Claims 23 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Note that Applicant does not necessarily agree with the reasoning for the rejection set forth in the Office Action, and explicitly reserves the right to pursue claims 23 and 25 or claims of similar scope in a continuation application.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Handelman et al. (US 2003/0174659A1). Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Note that Applicant does not necessarily agree with the reasoning for the rejection set forth in the Office

Action, and explicitly reserves the right to pursue claim 9 or claims of similar scope in a continuation application.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Darcie, in view of Jennings et al. (US 2002/0015200A1). Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Note that Applicant does not necessarily agree with the reasoning for the rejection set forth in the Office Action, and explicitly reserves the right to pursue claim 4 or claims of similar scope in a continuation application.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradford in view of Majima (US 6,101,014A). Claim 24 has been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Note that Applicant does not necessarily agree with the reasoning for the rejection set forth in the Office Action, and explicitly reserves the right to pursue claim 24 or claims of similar scope in a continuation application.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Handelman in view of Majima. Claims 10-11 have been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Note that Applicant does not necessarily agree with the reasoning for the rejection set forth in the Office Action, and explicitly reserves the right to pursue claims 10-11 or claims of similar scope in a continuation application.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Handleman in view of Majima, and further in view of Miyachi et al. (US 5,920,414A). Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Note that Applicant does not necessarily agree

with the reasoning for the rejection set forth in the Office Action, and explicitly reserves the right to pursue claims 12 or claims of similar scope in a continuation application.

In sum, Applicant has canceled claims 1-12 and 23-26 without prejudice solely for the purpose of expediting the issuance of a patent. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims 1-12 and 23-26 or claims of similar scope in a continuation application or a divisional application.

New Claims

New claims 27-31 have been added without introducing any new matter. Claim 27 sets forth:

putting an identification into a first optical signal using an encoder of the optical transceiver;
sending the first optical signal with the identification to the WSM from the optical transceiver;
detecting a second optical signal received from the WSM after sending the first optical signal; and
causing *a set of one or more processors coupled to the WSM to automatically determine whether the second optical signal corresponds to the first optical signal in response to the identification and an interrupt from each of the WSM and the optical transceiver.*

(Claim 27; emphasis added)

As stated in the Office Action, prior art made of record does not teach “a set of one or more processors coupled to the WSM to automatically determine whether the second optical signal corresponds to the first optical signal in response to the identification and an interrupt from each of the WSM and the optical transceiver” (Office Action, p. 10, lines 1-4). Therefore, claim 27 is novel and patentable over the art of record.

Claims 28-31 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 27, and thus, are also novel and patentable over the art of record. Allowance of claims 27-31 is earnestly solicited.


CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the remarks and amendments, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the pending claims be allowed.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3), Applicants hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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